

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2001

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

CORNELL AND BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITIES RECEIVE \$328,000 IN NEH GRANTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the National Endowment for the Humanities is awarding grants totaling \$328,000 to Cornell University and Binghamton University. Cornell will receive \$228,000 to preserve and microfilm brittle books, while Binghamton has been awarded \$100,000 to expand its website, "Women and Social Movements in the United States."

"Both of these universities possess important collections of documents and books," said Hinchey. "I'm very pleased that NEH has recognized this and is helping to preserve these collections and make them available to a larger audience."

The Cornell University Library will use its grant to preserve and make accessible the Witchcraft Collection housed in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. Acquired and established by the first President of the University, Andrew Dickson White, the Witchcraft Collection contains over 3,600 titles documenting the history of the Inquisition and the persecution of witches in Europe. The collection is ranked as a Research Libraries Group Conspectus Level 5 (comprehensive), and has been judged by some experts to be the finest in the world on the subject.

"The Cornell University Library is delighted to have received funding from the NEH to preserve this important collection," said Barbara Berger Eden, Cornell's Preservation Reformatting Librarian. "This is part of our ongoing effort to preserve and provide access to the collections at Cornell for future generations of scholars."

"Women and Social Movements in the United States" is a major website that is currently accessed by about 10,000 people from more than 60 countries each month. Binghamton University's Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender began constructing the site three years ago under the direction of Professors Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin. The website publishes groups of primary documents focusing on the history of women and reform in the United States since 1820. It now has more than 500 documents and 100 photographs, coupled with introductory essays, bibliographies, and lesson plans to facilitate use of the sources in college and high school classes. The NEH grant will permit Binghamton, working in collaboration with twelve other colleges and universities, to expand the website dramatically over the next three years.

"We are gratified by the recognition that this grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities represents," said Dublin. "The Web provides an innovative medium for history teaching and we are confident that our work will make available new materials for students and teachers of American history."

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, and public programs in the humanities.